

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01402 061504Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 052014Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9364

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1402

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ETRN, BB

SUBJ: CIVAIR: GOB PRESSES ICA APPLICATION

REF: STATE 182646

1. AMBASSADOR, DCM AND ECONOFF MET MORNING AUGUST 5 WITH PERMANENT SECRETARY, PRIMIN'S OFFICE, CORBIN AND ICA GENERAL MANAGER, IAN ALLEN AT CORBIN'S REQUEST TO DISCUSS PENDING ICA OPERATING PERMIT APPLICATION. CORBIN OPENED DISCUSSION BY MENTIONING THAT IN EXCHANGE OF NOTES LAST AUGUST, USG HAD AGREED TO ENSURE THAT APPROPRIATE OPERATING AND TECHNICAL AUTHORIZATION WOULD BE GRANTED WITH A MINIMUM OF PROCEDURAL DELAY TO GOB DESIGNATED AIRLINE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT ICA APPLICATION HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO DEPT ON MAY 2 BUT THAT NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE HEARING AND THAT GOB/ICA ARE CONCERNED THAT UNLESS APPLICATION RECEIVES SPEEDIER TREATMENT ICA MAY NOT BE ABLE TO MEET ITS TARGET DATE OF NOVEMBER 1 1975 FOR OPERATIONS TO U.S. CORBIN POINTED OUT THAT GOB HAD ACTED WITHIN TEN DAYS IN RECENT REDISIGNATION OF AMERICAN AIRLINES. CORBIN LEFT AID-MEMOIRE SETTING FORTH GOV POSITION. (COPY POUCHED TO EB/OA).

2. AMBASSADOR, NOTING LARGE NUMBER OF FOREIGN CARRIERS OPERATING INTO US, RESPONDED THAT CAB DOCKET WAS UNDOUBTEDLY VERY FULL. HE ALSO SAID THAT ONE HAD TO ADMIT THAT REDESIGN-
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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01402 061504Z

ATION OF AA IN PLACE OF PAA WAS RELATIVELY SIMPLE MATTER COMPARED

TO INITIAL ICA OPERATING PERMIT AND DID NOT INVOLVE COMPLEX ISSUES. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT WE WOULD PASS GOB CONCERN ON TO WASHINGTON AND WOULD DO OUR UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT A DECISION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME.

3. IAN ALLEN THEN DISCLOSED THAT ICA HAD MADE A FORMAL OBJECTION TO GOB AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING AUTHORITY (ATLA) RE APPROVAL OF AMERICAN AIRLINES OPERATIONS ON GROUND THAT AA APPLICATION "LACKS RECIPROCITY BECAUSE USG HAS BREACHED ITS AGREEMENT WITH GOB IN REFUSING TO GRANT ICA APPLICATION FOR US ROUTES WITH MINIMUM OF PROCEDURAL DELAY." (COPY OF ICA LETTER TO ATLA DATED THIS DATE TO EB/OA). WHEN PRESSED ON USE OF WORD "BREACHED" ALLEN ADMITTED THAT LETTER WAS DRAFTED BY ICA ATTORNEY ROBERT BECKMAN WHO APPARENTLY TOLD ICA/GOB THAT TIME ELAPSED THUS FAR WAS "EXCESSIVE." CORBIN REPLIED THAT CLOSING DATE FOR OBJECTIONS TO AA LICENSE WAS AUGUST 17 AND THAT ATLA WOULD LIKELY HOLD MEETING WITHIN ONE WEEK AFTERWARDS. HE SAID THAT HE COULD RECEIVE SOME ASSURANCES BY THAT TIME SO AS NOT TO HOLD UP AA SERVICE SLATED TO COMMENCE SEPTEMBER 8.

4. A DISCUSSION OF LICENSING PROCEDURES ENSUED DURING WHICH IT EMERGED THAT GOB/ICA WOULD LIKE CLARIFICATION OF SEVERAL POINTS REGARDING PROCEDURES REQUIRED BY USG. SPECIFICALLY, THEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW EXACT SEQUENCE AND NATURE OF STEPS REQUIRED TOWARD CAB ACTION (PARA 1 REFTTEL); WHETHER ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE HEARING IS ESSENTIAL; WHEN DATE FOR SUCH HEARING MIGHT BE SET AND HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE. CORBIN AND ALLEN ALSO SAID THEY WOULD LIKE SOME INDICATION OF HOW LONG ENTIRE PROCESS MIGHT TAKE (UNTIL CAB DECISION).

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW EXTENT OR SERIOUSNESS OF GOB THREAT RE AA LICENSE. CORBIN DOWNPLAYED THREAT ASPECT AND PROFESSED NOT TO WISH TO HOLD UP AA OPERATIONS "EVEN FOR ONE HOUR." NEVERTHELESS, GOB IS CLEARLY MOVING TO PUT PRESSURE ON US RE ICA PERMIT APPLICATION. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IN RESPONDING TO KNOW LENGTH OF TIME ORDINARILY REQUIRED FOR PROCESSING OF INITIAL OPERATIONS PERMIT AND WHETHER IN FACT TIME ELAPSED SINCE ICA SUBMISSION IS ABNORMAL. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IN RESOLVING WHAT COULD BE AN UNPLEASANT CONFRONTATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRIDGE 01402 061504Z

IF WE COULD SIMPLY GIVE GOB SOME SORT OF INDICATION OF HOW LONG BEFORE CAB DECISION IN MATTER CAN BE EXPECTED IF THIS IS POSSIBLE. WE MIGHT BUTTRESS SUCH A REPLY BY INCLUDING FACTS AND EXAMPLES OF OTHER CASES FOR GOB'S INFORMATION.

6. WE HAVE ADVISED AA LOCALLY OF SITUATION THROUGH PAA. BRITTON

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